This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune disease	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that activating AHR could help treat autoimmune diseases. In cell culture, an activating ligand of AHR in combination with transforming growth factor-β1 (TGFB1) led to greater populations of immunosuppressive T_{reg} cells than either molecule alone. In an adoptive transfer mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), T_{reg} cells with mutant Ahr induced more severe autoimmune disease symptoms than wild-type T_{reg} cells. Next steps include clinical testing of a nontoxic AHR-activating ligand identified by the groups.</p> <p>SciBX 3(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.944 Published online Aug. 12, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Gandhi, R. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2010; doi:10.1038/ni.1915 Contact: Francisco J. Quintana, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: fquintana@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Apetoh, L. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2010; doi:10.1038/ni.1912 Contact: Vijay K. Kuchroo, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: vkuchroo@rics.bwh.harvard.edu Contact: Howard L. Weiner, same affiliation as above e-mail: hweiner@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>